

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A hub for use in conjunction with a spool, the hub comprising:
5 a core including a central axis;
the core being structured to be disposed on the spool;
an indication member;
the indication member including a support and at least a first tab;
the support being mounted on the core;
10 the at least first tab being disposed on the support; and
the at least first tab including an elongated dimension that extends in a
generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core.
2. The hub of Claim 1,
15 wherein the indication member is generally flat; and
the support and the at least first tab being generally coplanar.
3. The hub of Claim 1,
wherein the indication member further includes a second tab;
20 the second tab having an elongated dimension that extends in a generally
radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core; and
the indication member being a monolithically-formed single-piece member.
4. The hub of Claim 3,
25 wherein the support extends between the at least first and second tabs;
the support being at least partially arcuate.
5. The hub of Claim 1,
wherein the support is an elongated arcuate member; and

the at least first tab extending generally perpendicularly away from the support.

6. The hub of Claim 1,
5 wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally away from the central axis.

7. The hub of Claim 1,
10 wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally toward the central axis.

8. The hub of Claim 1,
wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

9. The hub of Claim 1,
15 wherein the indication member further includes a second tab;
the second tab having an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core;
the support including a first support portion and a second support portion;
20 the at least first tab being disposed on and extending from the first support portion; and
the second tab being disposed on and extending from the second support portion.

10. The hub of Claim 1,
25 wherein the support is substantially embedded in the core.

11. The hub of Claim 10,
30 wherein the at least first tab is substantially embedded in the core;
a window is formed in the core; and

the window extending between the at least first tab and the exterior of the core.

12. The hub of Claim 1,
5 wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.

13. A hub for use in conjunction with a spool, the hub comprising:
a core structured to be disposed on the spool; and
an indication member;
10 the indication member including a support and at least a first tab;
the support being mounted on the core;
the at least first tab being disposed on the support; and
the support and the at least first tab each being of a generally planar
configuration.

14. The hub of Claim 13,
15 wherein the support and the at least first tab are generally coplanar.

15. The hub of Claim 13,
20 wherein the core includes a central axis; and
the at least first tab including an elongated dimension that extends in a
generally radial direction with respect to the central axis.

16. The hub of Claim 15,
25 wherein the indication member further includes a second tab;
the second tab having an elongated dimension that extends in a generally
radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core; and
the indication member being a monolithically-formed single-piece member.

17. The hub of Claim 16,

wherein the support extends between the at least first and second tabs;
the support being at least partially arcuate.

18. The hub of Claim 15,
5 wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally
away from the central axis.

19. The hub of Claim 15,
10 wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally
toward the central axis.

20. The hub of Claim 13,
wherein the support is an elongated arcuate member; and
15 wherein the at least first tab extends generally perpendicularly away from the
support.

21. The hub of Claim 13,
wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

22. The hub of Claim 13,
20 wherein the indication member further includes a second tab;
the second tab having an elongated dimension that extends in a generally
radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core;
the support including a first support portion and a second support portion;
25 the at least first tab being disposed on and extending from the first support
portion; and
the second tab being disposed on and extending from the second support
portion.

30 23. The hub of Claim 13,

wherein the support is substantially embedded in the core.

24. The hub of Claim 13,

wherein the at least first tab is substantially embedded in the core;

a window being formed in the core; and

the window extending between the at least first tab and the exterior of the core.

25. The hub of Claim 13,

wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.

26. A detectable spool for use in a printer, the detectable spool comprising:

a spool including a central axis;

indication means disposed on the spool;

the indication means including an indication member;

the indication member including a support and at least a first tab; and

the at least first tab including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis.

27. The detectable spool of Claim 26,

wherein the indication member is generally flat; and

the support and the at least first tab being generally coplanar.

28. The detectable spool of Claim 26,

wherein the indication member further includes a second tab;

the second tab having an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis; and

the indication member being a monolithically-formed single-piece member.

29. The detectable spool of Claim 28,
wherein the support extends between the at least first and second tabs;
the support being at least partially arcuate.

5 30. The detectable spool of Claim 26,
wherein the support is an elongated arcuate member; and
the at least first tab extending generally perpendicularly away from the
support.

10 31. The detectable spool of Claim 26,
wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally
away from the central axis.

15 32. The detectable spool of Claim 26,
wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally
toward the central axis.

20 33. The detectable spool of Claim 26,
wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

34. The detectable spool of Claim 26,
wherein the indication member further includes a second tab;
the second tab having an elongated dimension that extends in a generally
radial direction with respect to the central axis;
25 the support including a first support portion and a second support portion;
the at least first tab being disposed on and extending from the first support
portion; and
the second tab being disposed on and extending from the second support
portion.

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35. The detectable spool of Claim 26,
wherein the indication means further includes a core;
the support being substantially embedded in the core; and
the core being disposed on the spool.

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36. The detectable spool of Claim 35,
wherein the at least first tab is substantially embedded in the core;
a window being formed in the core; and
the window extending between the at least first tab and the exterior of the

10 core.

37. The detectable spool of Claim 26,
wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.

15 38. A detectable spool for use in a printer, the detectable spool
comprising:

a spool; and

indication means disposed on the spool;

the indication means including an indication member;

20 the indication member including a support and at least a first tab; and

the support and the at least first tab each being of a generally planar
configuration.

39. The detectable spool of Claim 38,

25 wherein the support and the at least first tab are generally coplanar.

40. The detectable spool of Claim 38,
wherein the spool includes a central axis; and

30 the at least first tab including an elongated dimension that extends in a
generally radial direction with respect to the central axis.

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41. The detectable spool of Claim 40,
wherein the indication member further includes a second tab;
the second tab having an elongated dimension that extends in a generally
5 radial direction with respect to the central axis; and
the indication member being a monolithically-formed single-piece member.

42. The detectable spool of Claim 41,
wherein the support extends between the at least first and second tabs;
10 the support being at least partially arcuate.

43. The detectable spool of Claim 38,
wherein the spool includes a central axis; and
the at least first tab extending from the support in a direction generally away
15 from the central axis.

44. The detectable spool of Claim 38,
wherein the spool includes a central axis; and
the at least first tab extending from the support in a direction generally
20 toward the central axis.

45. The detectable spool of Claim 38,
wherein the support is an elongated arcuate member; and
the at least first tab extending generally perpendicularly away from the
25 support.

46. The detectable spool of Claim 38,
wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

30 47. The detectable spool of Claim 38,

wherein the spool includes a central axis;
the indication member further including a second tab;
the second tab having an elongated dimension that extends in a generally
radial direction with respect to the central axis;
5 the support including a first support portion and a second support portion;
the at least first tab being disposed on and extending from the first support
portion; and
the second tab being disposed on and extending from the second support
portion.

10 48. The detectable spool of Claim 38,
wherein the indication means further includes a core;
the support being substantially embedded in the core; and
the core being disposed on the spool.

15 49. The detectable spool of Claim 48,
wherein the at least first tab is substantially embedded in the core;
a window being formed in the core; and
the window extending between the at least first tab and the exterior of the
20 core.

50. The detectable spool of Claim 38,
wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.

25 51. A hub for use in conjunction with a spool, the hub comprising:
a core including a central axis;
the core being structured to be disposed on the spool; and
an indication member;
the indication member including a support and a plurality of tabs;
30 the support being mounted on the core;

the tabs being disposed on the support; and
the support extending between the tabs.

52. The hub of Claim 51,
5 wherein the indication member is generally flat; and
the support and the tabs being generally coplanar.

53. The hub of Claim 51,
10 wherein the indication member is a monolithically-formed single-piece
member.

54. The hub of Claim 51,
wherein the support is at least partially arcuate.

55. The hub of Claim 54,
15 wherein the tabs each extend generally perpendicularly away from the
support.

56. The hub of Claim 54,
20 wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

57. The hub of Claim 51,
wherein the support includes a central axis; and
the tabs extend from the support in a direction generally away from the
25 central axis.

58. The hub of Claim 51,
wherein the support includes a central axis; and
wherein the tabs extend from the support in a direction generally toward the
30 central axis.

59. The hub of Claim 51,
wherein the support includes a first support portion and a second support
portion;
5 one of the tabs being disposed on and extending from the first support
portion; and
another of the tabs being disposed on and extending from the second support
portion.
- 10 60. The hub of Claim 51,
wherein the support is substantially embedded in the core.
61. The hub of Claim 60,
wherein the tabs are substantially embedded in the core;
15 a plurality of windows being formed in the core; and
the windows each extending between one of the tabs and the exterior of the
core.
62. The hub of Claim 51,
20 wherein the core is colored according to the specific arrangement of the tabs
with respect to the support.
63. The hub of Claim 62,
wherein the core is formed of a material having a color according to the
25 specific arrangement of the tabs with respect to the support.
64. The hub of Claim 51,
wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.

65. A indication member for incorporation into a detectable spool for use in a printer, the printer including a sensing apparatus, the indication member comprising:

a support;

5 a plurality of tabs;

the support extending between the tabs;

the tabs protruding from the support; and

the tabs being structured to be detectable by the sensing apparatus.

10 66. The indication member of Claim 65,
wherein the indication member is generally flat; and
the support and the tabs being generally coplanar.

15 67. The indication member of Claim 65,
wherein the indication member is a monolithically-formed single-piece
member.

20 68. The indication member of Claim 65,
wherein the support is at least partially arcuate.

69. The indication member of Claim 68,
wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

25 70. The indication member of Claim 68,
wherein the tabs each extend generally perpendicularly away from the
support.

71. The indication member of Claim 70,
wherein the support includes a central axis; and

the tabs extend from the support in a direction generally away from the central axis.

5 72. The indication member of Claim 70,
wherein the support includes a central axis; and
the tabs extend from the support in a direction generally toward the central
axis.

10 73. The indication member of Claim 65,
wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.